

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305588
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:EDSMITH:RAH
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305588

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR CONCERNING
CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ IN MEETING WITH
TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL DEC 21, ARRANGED AT DEPARTMENT
INITIATIVE, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE TURKISH
ACTION ON CONSTITUTING CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE
AND ON SCHEDULING FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS. NIMETZ ALSO
HIGHLIGHTED IMPORTANCE OF UPCOMING VISIT BY UNSYG WALDHEIM
TO TURKEY AND CYPRUS AND HOPED GOT WOULD USE OPPORTUNITY TO
TRY TO CONVINCE UNSYG OF TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE
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PAGE 02 STATE 305588

SERIOUSLY AND REASONABLY ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL
ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. ALONG LINES PARA 4 STATE 302118, NIMETZ STRESSED CON-
TINUING STRONG IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE AND EXPRESSED HOPE GOT
CAN HELP CONVINCE DENKTASH TO OVERCOME REMAINING TEXTUAL

DIFFERENCES UNDER DISCUSSION IN NICOSIA. NIMETZ MENTIONED THAT AN INVITATION FROM CLARK CLIFFORD TO DENKTASH FOR A VISIT TO THE US EARLY IN 1978 WAS ACTIVELY UNDER CONSIDERATION AND HAD BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER,

DECISIONS ON THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT AND WHEN AN ACTUAL INVITATION COULD BE EXTENDED WOULD BE MADE EASIER IF THE MISSING PERSONS ISSUE WERE RESOLVED. NIMETZ ALLUDED TO WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE ICRC POSITION ON VOTING IN SUCH WORK (GENEVA 12509). ESENBEL SAW THIS AS A FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION, ALTHOUGH DEPTOFFS NOTED THAT THERE WAS ALREADY CONSIDERABLE HISTORY OF NEGOTIATING DECISION-MAKING LANGUAGE IN DRAFT AGREEMENT AND THAT GREEK SIDE NEEDED ASSURANCE THAT COMMITTEE WOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM AND ACCOMPLISH ITS OBJECTIVES. (SEPTTEL WILL BE SENT ON ICRC IN RESPONSE GENEVA 12509 AND NICOSIA 3326.) NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS WITH ESENBEL BUT ONLY WANTED TO REITERATE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY RESOLUTION.

3. THE TRANSCRIPT (STATE 304289) OF DEPARTMENT DEC 21 NOON PRESS BRIEFING EXCHANGE ON TURKISH WITHDRAWAL OF 700 TROOPS WAS GIVEN TO ESENBEL. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF 700 MEN, WHILE CLEARLY A FURTHER STEP FORWARD, WAS NOT OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE BY ITSELF AND URGED ESENBEL TO STRESS THE NEED FOR SCHEDULING CONTINUED ADDITIONAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 305588

WITHDRAWALS.

4. NIMETZ GAVE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HIS DEC 20 CONVERSATION WITH UN OFFICIALS RE SYG WALDHEIM'S TRIP TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (SEPTTEL) AND STRESSED THAT WALDHEIM CLEARLY WOULD NOT SEEK TO RECONVENE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL CONVINCED THAT TURKISH SIDE WAS IN FACT PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE AND POSITIVE, AND TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON BOTH CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES. A FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF TURKISH ATTITUDES TOWARD CYPRUS BY THE UNSYG FOLLOWING HIS ANKARA VISIT WOULD CARRY GREAT WEIGHT INTERNATIONALLY; A NEGATIVE IMPRESSION COULD UNDERCUT WHATEVER FAVORABLE PICTURE OF TURKISH ATTITUDES MAY HAVE BEGUN TO BE DEVELOPED OVER LAST FEW MONTHS THROUGH CAGLAYANGIL STATEMENTS, TROOP WITHDRAWALS, ETC. NIMETZ ASSUMED THAT THE GOT, IN FORMULATING ITS OWN APPROACH TO WALDHEIM VISIT, WOULD ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE DENKTASH TO TAKE PARALLEL LINE WHEN SYG VISITS NICOSIA FEW DAYS LATER.

5. ESENBEL SAID HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO ANKARA. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW-UP ON FOREGOING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. ESENBEL ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT SECOND FY 78 FMS PRESI-
DENTIAL DETERMINATION. HE WAS TOLD ALONG LINES STATE
299850 THAT WORK WAS PROGRESSING IN DEPARTMENT AND WE

HOPED TO HAVE IT READY FOR SUBMISSION WHEN CONGRESS
RETURNED ON JANUARY 19. VANCE

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